<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 9 to 12, 15 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus which is connected with an information communication apparatus, comprising:

first input means for entering <u>payment</u> information on an addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

<u>memory control means for storing the payment information entered by said first input means in a memory;</u>

second input means for entering an image;

addition means for adding ~~said~~ <u>the payment</u> information ~~on the addressee of~~ ~~fee billing to said~~ <u>stored in the memory by said memory control means to the</u> image <u>entered by said second input means</u> in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; ~~and~~

output means for outputting ~~said added~~ <u>the</u> image <u>to which the payment information is added by said addition means; and</u>

<u>deletion means for deleting the payment information from the memory after said addition means adds the payment information to the entered image.</u>

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second output means for outputting information based on the output of said outputted image to said information communication apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said payment information on the addressee of fee billing includes information for specifying a company issuing a credit card, and information for specifying a user of said credit card.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said payment information on the addressee of fee billing includes information for specifying a bank issuing a debit card, and information for specifying a user of said debit card.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first input means further enters information for enabling activation of said image processing apparatus from said information communication apparatus, and said second input means starts the entry of said image after the entry of information for enabling activation of said image processing apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said information based on the output of image includes at least one of the information on the sheet size, color mode and black-and-white mode.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising discrimination means for discriminating whether said image is a specified image, and control means for controlling the addition by said addition means based on the result of discrimination by said discrimination means.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said addition means further adds information specific to the apparatus to the image.

9. to 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing system composed of an information communication apparatus capable of communicating with an external server and an image processing apparatus, wherein:

said image processing apparatus includes comprises:

first input means for entering payment information on an addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

memory control means for storing the payment information entered by said first input means in a memory;

second input means for entering an image;

addition means for adding said the payment information on the addressee of fee billing to said stored in the memory by said memory control means to the image entered by said second input means in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

first output means for outputting said added the image to which the payment information is added by said addition means; and

deletion means for deleting the payment information from the memory after said addition means adds the payment information to the entered image,

and said information communication apparatus includes comprises:

- 4 -

third input means for entering the payment information on the addressee of fee billing and a password;

third output means for outputting said payment information on the addressee of fee billing and said password to said external server;

fourth output means for outputting, to said image processing apparatus, said payment information on the addressee of fee billing according to the a result of identification on said payment information on the addressee of fee billing and on said password performed in said external server;

fourth input means for entering information based on the output of the image from said image processing apparatus; and

fifth output means for outputting the information based on the output of said image to said external server.

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing method in an image processing apparatus connected with an information communication apparatus, the method comprising:

a first input step of entering payment information on the addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

a memory control step of storing the payment information entered by the first input step in a memory;

a second input step of entering an image;

an addition step of adding said payment information on the addressee of fee billing to said stored in the memory by said memory control step to the image entered by the second input step in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

an output step of outputting ~~said added~~ the image to which the payment information is added by the addition step; and

a deletion step of deleting the payment information from the memory after the addition step adds the payment information to the entered image.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium on which are stored ~~storing~~ program codes for an image processing method in which an image processing apparatus is connected with an information communication apparatus, the ~~medium~~ program codes comprising:

a first input ~~code~~ step for entering payment information on the addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

a memory control step for storing the payment information entered by said first input step in a memory;

a second input ~~code~~ step for entering an image;

an addition ~~code~~ step for adding said payment information ~~on the addressee of fee billing to said~~ stored in the memory by said memory control step to the image entered by said second input step in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; ~~and~~

an output ~~code~~ for outputting ~~said added~~ the image to which the payment information is added by the addition step; and

a deletion step for deleting the payment information from the memory after said addition step adds the payment information to the entered image.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) An image processing apparatus in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, comprising:

a card reader for reading a card medium in which recorded is personal identification information for identifying a person requesting the image processing;

conversion means for converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader, into personal identification image data;

image generation means for generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion means and said user requested image data requested by the user for image processing; and

control means for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

19. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said request for image processing is a request for copying.

20. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading different card media.

21. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card medium is an automobile driving license.

22. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card medium is a prepaid card issued under a condition of inscription of predetermined personal information.

23. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said conversion means converts said personal identification information read by said card reader into invisible or scarcely visible personal identification image data.

24. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said image generation means generates output image data to be outputted, by superposing said personal identification image data converted by said conversion means with said user requested image data requested for image processing.

25. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading a character on the card medium.

26. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading a numeral on the card medium.

27. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading a pattern on the card medium.

28. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading a registration number recorded on a magnetic card medium through a magnetic head.

29. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising first informing means adapted, in case said control means compares said personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the server apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person information indicating an improper person for the image request.

30. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising second informing means adapted, in case said control means compares said personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the manager terminal apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person alarm information indicating an improper person for the image request.

31. (Original) A managing method for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing

by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, the method comprising:

a conversion step of converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader, into personal identification image data;

an image generation step of generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion step and said user requested image data requested by the user for image processing; and

a control step of limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

32. (Original) A computer readable storage medium for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, the medium comprising:

a code for converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader, into personal identification image data;

a code for generating output image data to be outputted, from said converted personal identification image data and user requested image data requested by the user for image processing; and

a code for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said

personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited

person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said

server apparatus.

33. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

image input means for entering an image;

information input means for entering predetermined information to be

embedded in said the image entered by said image input means;

memory control means for storing the predetermined information entered by

said information input means in a memory;

inquiry means for inquiring to the exterior whether said the predetermined

information stored in the memory by said memory control means is effective; and

embedding means for embedding said the stored predetermined information

into said the entered image in case if said inquiry means identifies that said the

predetermined information is effective; and

deletion means for deleting the predetermined information from the memory

after said embedding means embeds the predetermined information to the entered image.

34. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 33,

wherein said exterior is a server computer.

35. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said inquiry means inquires through a communication channel whether said predetermined information is effective.

36. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of entering an image;

an information input step of entering predetermined information to be embedded in said the image entered in the image input step;

a memory control step of storing the predetermined information entered by said information input means in a memory;

an inquiry step of inquiring to the exterior whether said the predetermined information stored in the memory by the memory control step is effective; and

an embedding step of embedding said the stored predetermined information into said the entered image in case if said inquiry step identifies that said the predetermined information is effective; and

a deletion step of deleting the predetermined information from the memory after said embedding step embeds the predetermined information to the entered image.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium on which are stored program codes for an image processing method, the program codes comprising:

an image input code step for entering an image;

an information input step code for entering predetermined information to be embedded in said the image entered by said image input means;

a memory control step for storing the predetermined information entered by said information input step in a memory;

an inquiry step code for inquiring to the exterior whether said the predetermined information stored in the memory by said memory control step is effective; and

an embedding step code for embedding said the predetermined information into said the entered image in case if said inquiry identifies that said the predetermined information is effective; and

a deletion step for deleting the predetermined information from the memory after said embedding step embeds the predetermined information to the entered image.